CARE AND LOADING ISTRUCTIONS FOR 1874 SHARPS 45 / 70 CAL.

INITIAL CARE AND CLEANING

1. Before handling this or any other firearm, always make sure the firearm is unloaded and pointed in a safe direction.
2. Using a quality gun solvent, remove all excess factory lubricant. Field stripping the firearm will facilitate this process. (See Field Stripping). Relubricate all moving contact points with a quality "spray type" gun lubricant.
3. Thoroughly clean the bore, and remove all excess solvent with clean, dry patches, replacing them as often as necessary until they come out clean and dry.
a. A slight film of gun oil should be left in the barrel during long periods of storage, however, the cleaning procedure **MUST** be repeated before shooting the firearm. **The barrel must always be clean and dry before shooting.**

FIELD STRIPPING

1. After making sure the gun is unloaded, and with the muzzle pointed in a safe direction, field strip the gun.
a. With the action **CLOSED**, place the hammer in the half-cock position. You will notice a tiny plunger pin (part.: N. 42) located on the right side of the frame.
b. The lever hinge pin (part.: N. 41) is located on the lower front of the frame on the right hand side of the rifle. While pushing in on the tiny plunger pin, rotate the arm of the lever hinge pin forward past the plunger pin, approximately 180 degrees from its original position. Turn the rifle upside down. While rotating forward and backward a few degrees, and pulling outward, remove the lever hinge pin. After the lever hinge pin has been removed, slide the lever and the breech block up and out of the rifle.
c. You have now field stripped the rifle. Further disassembly should be attempted only by a competent gunsmith.
d. Reverse the above procedure for reassembly.

SAFETY

1. We strongly recommend you practise the procedure of placing the rifle on safe **before** attempting to load and fire the rifle.
2. To place the rifle on safe, slowly drop the hammer to the half-cock position. We strongly recommend not loading the rifle until you are in the hunting field, or on the target range and you are ready to shoot safely.

LOADING AND FIRING

1. Use only factory loaded 45 / 70 ammunition. Ammunition used should not exceed 25,000 c.u.p.
2. To load the rifle, first point the muzzle downrange in a safe direction. Place the rifle on safe, by placing the hammer in the half-cock position.
Extend the lever downward, fully opening the breech. Carefully insert one 45/70 cartridge completely into the breech and close the action. You are now ready to fire the rifle.
3. To fire, point the rifle downrange toward your target and fully cock the hammer. While pointing at your target, slowly pull on the rear trigger until it sets. While aiming at your target, slowly squeeze the front trigger and your rifle will fire.
a. If your rifle is equipped with an adjustable set trigger assembly. Screw the trigger adjusting screw (part. n. 56) inward or outward until the desired trigger pressure is obtained. Always adjust the set triggers with an unloaded rifle !!! Use an empty case in the chamber when setting, so the firing pin has something to contact when pulling the trigger. If more than 5 shots are required to set the triggers, use a different empty case.

SIGHTING

1. Your Sharps Rifle is equipped with an adjustable rear sight with a provision for windage elevation. Sighting adjustments should be made with the front sight, which, for the models provided with dove tail, is drift adjustable for windage. With a brass drift, the front sight can be moved left or right, depending on which direction your rifle happens to be shooting. Move the front sight in the direction you are shooting. If you are shooting to the left, move your front sight left; if it shoots right, move the front sight right. For short range elevation adjustments, it may be necessary to file the front sight blade down a little. You may use your elevation rail (part. n. 19) in combination with the rear sight slide (part. n. 23) as a reference for long distance shooting.